

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 229545

60

ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 /043 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:GADIES:LFS

APPROVED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH

AFR/SFWA:DSHEAR (DRAFT)

----- 022799

P R 161901Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 229545

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, EAID

SUBJECT: PAN AFRICAN AIR INDUSTRIES (PAAI)

REF: (A) OUAGADOUGOU 2734, (B) STATE 174444 (C) DIES-
BIGELOW LTR DATED 8/31/76 (NOTAL)

1. PER REF (A), COUNTRY OFFICER HAS ASSEMBLED FOLLOWING
INFORMATION ABOUT ACTIVITIES OF PAAI. THIS INFO SHOULD
BE VIEWED AS SUPPLEMENTAL TO BACKGROUND PAPERS FORWARDED
TO EMBASSY OUAGA AS ENCLOSURES TO REF (C). INFO ON
MERBAN INTERNATIONAL CORP., ITS PRESIDENT CHARLES BAUDOIN,
AND CHEMICAL BANK, PARIS, IS BEING GATHERED BY USDOC AND
WILL BE SENT SEPTEL.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 229545

2. PAAI PRESIDENT ROBERTSON VISITED AFR/SFWA DIRECTOR SHEAR ON SEPTEMBER 2, WITH IDEA THAT PAAI WOULD BE ABLE TO EXPEDITE OBTAINING LINE OF CREDIT IF IT COULD DEMONSTRATE FIRM COMMITMENT FROM AID THAT IT WOULD BE INVOLVED IN TRANSPORT/LOCAL INVOLVEMENT IN AID PROJECTS IN WEST AFRICA. SHEAR REPLIED THAT SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT NOT PERMITTED UNDER AID REGULATIONS, BUT SAID THAT AID COULD SUBMIT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) WHICH COULD FORM BASIS OF DISCUSSIONS OF POSSIBLE PAAI ASSOCIATION WITH AID. SHEAR ALSO SUGGESTED, ALONG SAME LINE THAT ROBERTSON MIGHT EXPLORE FEASIBILITY OF COMMENCING CHARTER AIRCRAFT SERVICE IN VIEW OF THE EXTRAORDINARILY HIGH RATES AID TEAMS ARE CURRENTLY PAYING BUT THAT AID COULD MAKE NO COMMITMENT TO USE SUCH A SERVICE SINCE COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES WOULD HAVE TO BE FOLLOWED.

3. ROBERTSON EXPLAINED THAT HE NOW ENVISAGES LEASING/ PURCHASING SIX C-130S FOR PAAI OPERATION. ROBERTSON HAD ORIGINALLY PLANNED ON USING TURBOPROP ELECTRAS, BUT HAS SINCE OPTED FOR C-130S (WHICH COST APPROX DOLS 7-9 MILLION APIECE, INCLUDING SPARE PARTS PACKAGE).

4. ROBERTSON HAS NOT BEEN IN CONTACT WITH STATE COUNTRY DESK, THOUGH MS. RAZI DID CONTACT CHAD DESK BEFORE DEPARTING FOR WEST AFRICA IN JULY.

5. COMMENT: IN GENERAL, AID AND AF/W AGREE WITH FIELD POSTS' RESERVATIONS ABOUT LACK OF SUBSTANCE TO ROBERTSON'S PROPOSALS. THROUGH BUSINESS CONNECTIONS, HE APPEARS TO HAVE BEGUN LINING UP NECESSARY FINANCING FOR START-UP OPERATIONS, BUT HAS LONG WAY TO GO. IN FACT, HIS MEETING WITH AFR/SFWA MIGHT BE CONSTRUED AS INDICATION THAT ROBERTSON NEEDS SOME SORT OF GUARANTEE OF FUTURE REVENUE IN ORDER BRING BANKS ON BOARD.

6. VIEWED IN JUXTAPOSITION TO AMBASSADOR YAGUIBOU'S REQUEST FOR USG OFFICIAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE TRAINING OF AIRCRAFT TECHNICIANS, ROBERTSON'S PROPOSAL SEEMS TO PROMISE ALL THAT GOUV COULD EVER HOPE FOR IN CIVIL AVIATION AND MORE. DEPT WONDERS WHY GOUV INTEREST-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 229545

ED IN PURCHASE OF C-130 IF ROBERTSON PLANS LEASE/PURCHASE TOTAL OF SIX FOR OUAGA-BASED AIR TRANSPORT COMPANY. END COMMENT.

HABIB

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION, INFORMATION CONTROL, BUSINESS FIRMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE229545
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GADIES:LFS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760350-0071
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760952/aaaabshh.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 OUAGADOUGOU 2734, 76 STATE 174444
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <12 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PAN AFRICAN AIR INDUSTRIES (PAAI)
TAGS: BEXP, EAID, PAAI, PAN AFRICAN AIR INDUSTRIES
To: OUAGADOUGOU
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006